Enhancements to the Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System for West Florida (COMPS): A Component of the Integrated Ocean Observing System

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The project seeks to continue and expand efforts related to the Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System (COMPS) for the west coast of Florida. The project goals include maintaining and enhancing an existing coastal ocean observing system, analyzing the data being generated, and disseminating these data and their scientific findings in accordance with the protocols and understandings of the developing Integrated Ocean Observing System. Additionally, the program on *in-situ* data collection is strongly linked with a parallel modeling activity, and while the support for modeling is not requested in this proposal, the proposed work will be enriched by the modeling activities. For instance, siting arguments for new measurement locations are strongly tied to the modeling activities. All of the proposed data acquisitions will be available in near real time on the Internet, and the standards and protocols for sharing and archiving of data in support of the Integrated Ocean Observing Systems will be followed.

As with the present data collection efforts, all of the new real time data will also be made available to the NDBC and the NOS for QA/QC and for dissemination via the NOAA gateway. OpenDAP access is already in place for all data from the real time systems. The goal is to have transparent data sharing for use by a broad range of government, private sector, and academic users. PIs are also collaborating with a range of investigators both at and external to USF for the purposes of sharing results among a group of multidisciplinary scientists, all engaged in attempting to understand the material property distributions of the coastal ocean for numerous societal benefits. Some immediate applications are to the study of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and other ecological concerns, and for providing assistance in maritime operations, emergency preparedness, hazardous spill response, and search and rescue. Data and information products from COMPS are served to these user communities via the web in NetCDF and OpenGIS formats. The project has led to partnerships in the emerging Regional Associations for both the Southeastern and Gulf of Mexico regions. COMPS is, and will remain, a building block of the Regional Coastal Ocean Observing Systems for both regions.